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solved that a committee be appointed to confer with Mr. Wilson in regard to the index. Committee to be appointed by the chair.

On motion of Mr. Deveneau of University of Illinois Library it was resolved that the section take some action to induce the U. S. Department of Agriculture to revise its list of Experiment Station publications, as contained in Bulletin 180, to bring it up to date.

On a second motion made by Mr. Deveneau it was resolved that the section also take some action to induce the U. S. Department of Agriculture to revise its own check-list of publications to date.

The appointment by the chair of a com-

mittee to coöperate with Miss Barnett, librarian of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, in the preparation of a handbook for small agricultural libraries was approved.

On account of the lateness of the hour the paper on "Some opportunities in agricultural library work," prepared by Mrs. Ida A. Kidder, librarian of Oregon Agricultural College, was read by title only.

(See p. 228)

Mr. Charles R. Green, librarian of Massachusetts College of Agriculture, was appointed chairman of the next meeting.

JULIA C. GRAY,

Secretary.

CATALOG SECTION

FIRST SESSION

The first meeting of the Catalog Section was held Tuesday evening, June 27, the chairman Miss Sula Wagner, of the St. Louis Public Library, presiding. Mr. Jesse Cunningham of St. Joseph, Mo., read the first paper of the evening on "Problems discovered in cataloging the library of the Missouri School of Mines."

(See p. 234)

A paper by J. Christian Bay, of the John Crerar Library, on "Inspiration through cataloging," was read, in his absence, by Carl B. Roden, of the Chicago Public Library.

(See p. 237)

In commenting on Mr. Bay's paper, Miss Agnes Van Valkenburgh, of the New York Public Library School, said:

"I thought at first that the subject announced was 'Cataloging by inspiration' and instantly examples of this method of work came into my mind, like putting Mrs. Alexander's 'Forging the fetters' under the subject Slavery, though this might possibly have been done with malice aforethought, since marriage furnished the fetters forged. It seems to me full time that

the inspirational side of our profession should receive our attention, if this means the things which make it worth while. This generation seems to have become obsessed with a desire to work *with* the public, the idea of working *for* the public has eluded them. Judged in the light of real helpfulness to the world, the catalogers, for instance, who made the useful debaters' handbooks did fully as much service as the person who uses them and who feels quite a thrill of satisfaction in giving to the high school boy more material than he can possibly digest, for his debate.

"There are many things inspiring in our work and I would call attention to a few of them.

"*First:* We are making a permanent record, which will be useful to people yet unborn, and whose influence will go on long after we are done with this earthly scene. I suppose if Mr. Charles A. Cutter had been stung with the bee of working *with* people, he would have had much influence with a few, he was that kind, but nothing at all to be compared with the influence he has had throughout this country in giving us formulated and uniform

rules for helping all people to get information.

"Even if we are working for the more ignoble reward of gratitude, the sum total felt in the hearts of people for quick and timely service far exceeds that given to the worker at the desk, though not expressed to us personally. We place the key in the hands of the searcher for knowledge.

"*Second:* Our work is vital and interesting. In order to do it well we must always work with the user of our labors in mind. We precede our clientele and to a certain extent blaze the way for them. We have all the joys of the path-finder and the pioneer.

"*Third:* The watchword of this age seems to be self-improvement, and in no other profession does the actual carrying on of the work produce that effect so surely. When I was explaining 'what I did,' to a man, one time, he concluded by saying, 'Why, all the interesting things in the world come over your desk.'

"It is true, we, as catalogers must know of all the new things in science, art and religion. Each new discovery or invention must be reflected in our product. Literature in all its forms is the instrument with which we work, and it is impossible to think daily of all these things without broadening our own horizons.

"Of course, we have to admit that some of our knowledge spreads out pretty thin in spots, and we will all welcome the day when each one of us will have some branch of knowledge which we really know, but in the meantime there is a great deal of pleasure and some profit in at least knowing what people are talking about, and in helping them to more knowledge about their own subjects of interest. This may be to some an idea different from the one usually held of us and our labors, that we sit in secluded offices and spend our time poring over dusty books in which no one is interested. I sometimes wonder how this idea became current, for I defy anyone here to name a profession which has more to offer to its followers than ours.

"To recapitulate: Our work is vital and

interesting, it makes daily and hourly for self-culture and education, and has as a result a record which posterity will find helpful. Who can hope to find more than this in any means of livelihood?"

Mr. Charles Martel, of the Library of Congress, emphasized Mr. Bay's point on personal method and personality in cataloging.

Miss Beatrice Winsor, of the Newark Free Public Library, gave a talk on "Making maps available."

(See p. 245)

Mr. A. Law Voge, of the Mechanics' Mercantile Library, San Francisco, presented the

REPORT OF THE DECIMAL CLASSIFICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

No one doubts that the open shelf has come to stay. Those who have drunk of the elixir of that freedom will never permit reversion to the closed shelf.

With the open shelf a system of mere pigeon-holing of books, irrespective of their relationship with adjacent books, no longer can have any worthy argument in its defense. All librarians must have noted that their most earnest readers not infrequently question the classification of certain books or classes of books. This attention to classification by readers who are specialists will grow as access to the books grows. You cannot classify too closely for these, the readers most worthy of being served. The intelligent reader goes to the shelf expecting to find there all the books on the subject in which he is interested. The arrangement on the shelf by classification number should show him the material the library has to offer as the subject catalog cannot. Without close classification his expectations will be disappointed. It is increasingly important that the individual books should be carefully classified, if the library is to retain the respect and trust of its best readers.

How much more necessary is it then that the classification-code itself should be ac-

curately prepared or else the most painstaking care of the classifier struggling with the individual book will go for naught.

No classification extant today can prevent this anguish of the classifier in every instance. Most classifiers recognize this fact. Most of them, too, have vision; their calling has claimed that for them; and they have seen (and sometimes thought they saw) places where alterations or extensions of the code of classification would have made it a better working tool. Many strove to make these suggestions where they would be acted upon, and then later, seeing little or no results, felt they had been ignored.

In the case of the D. C., the editors have readily listened to suggestions from all sources.

No classification is better than a bad classification, for if there is no classification you can begin with a clean slate; but if a bad classification has been used, much correction must be made of books and catalogs before the good classification can be utilized. So that before a chapter of any classification is permanently expanded, it is imperative that the tentative scheme or schemes be given exhaustive tests. This the classifier frequently fails to realize, but it is this sound principle that makes the editors of any classification conservative in adopting expansions or changes unless they are satisfied that the expansions have been thoroughly tested with all or most of the literature on the subject. Failure to make such tests inevitably results in embarrassment to all concerned in the classification.

For some years I have recognized the desire to aid in classification-expansions on the part of classifiers and catalogers generally, and I have felt equally certain of the willingness of the editors of the D. C. to co-operate in this. As acting chairman of the Catalog Section last year I saw the opportunity for combining these two forces in a resultant one of much greater power.

Mr. Dewey was asked if he approved the appointment of an advisory committee of the A. L. A. He replied most cordially

that he did, that he would not only accept suggestions from the committee on classification but would also transmit to them for approval or disapproval all proposed expansions coming to him from other sources.

At the session of the Catalog Section at Berkeley where over one hundred were in attendance, it was moved and seconded that the Catalog Section recommend to the Council that such a committee be appointed. This motion was unanimously carried. The Council at its last meeting in Berkeley passed the recommendation on to the Executive Board with its approval. There was not a quorum of the Executive Board present, so action was deferred.

At the Haines Falls meeting of the New York State Library Association in the fall of last year, the Executive Board met, considered the recommendation for the appointment of the committee, but because of some opposition, tabled it, leaving it to be brought up for final consideration at the December meeting.

The ex-acting chairman of the Catalog Section of the Berkeley meeting then circularized many of the large libraries, asking them to write to the Executive Board if they desired the appointment of the committee. Some 65 librarians wrote, urging the appointment of this committee.

The Executive Board, at the meeting in Chicago last December, instructed the president of the A. L. A. to appoint such a committee, being again assured by Mr. Dewey of his cordial welcome for their co-operation. Miss Plummer therefore appointed: Dr. C. W. Andrews of John Crerar, Miss Corinne Bacon of H. W. Wilson Co., Mr. Walter Biscoe of New York State Library, Miss June Donnelly of Simmons College Library School, Miss Jennie Fellows of New York State Library, Mr. Charles Flagg of Bangor, Me., Public Library, Miss Julia Pettie of Union Theological Seminary Library, Miss Mary Sutliff of New York Public Library School, and Mr. A. Law Voge of Mechanics' Institute, San Francisco, who was named secretary of the committee. Miss Plummer recommended that the committee choose its own chairman.

All those appointed have consented to serve, and by circular letter have nominated and elected Dr. Andrews chairman.

The committee held its first meeting this afternoon. It resolved to circularize the libraries asking for replies to four queries:

1. A list of the subjects most in need of numbers.
2. A list of the classes most in need of expansion.
3. A list of the classes most in need of change and for which they would be willing to reclass their books and correct their cards.

The committee desires above all things now to get a very general expression of opinion as to just what is most wanting in the Decimal Classification. It can do that in no better way than by the heart-to-heart talks for which a Round Table offers opportunity.

Among the types of suggestions which it is hoped will be made are the following:

1. Sections most in need of expansion.
2. Sections most in need of alteration.
3. Important subjects not yet classed or symbolized.
4. Unofficial expansions of the D. C. that might be used as basis for approved expansions.
5. Unsymbolized classifications that could be similarly used.
6. General *modus operandi* of classification making and classification testing.

The committee proposes for itself a variety of work:

1. Compilation of a supplementary list to the John Crerar Bibliography of bibliographies (for use in testing classifications).
2. Preparation and testing of some special expansions.
3. Testing and passing upon classifications prepared by libraries or individuals.
4. Testing and passing upon classifications submitted by the editors of the D. C.
5. Advising the D. C. editors what new subjects are most in need of class-numbers.
6. Determining where changes in the D. C. are most necessary and most desired.

The committee will probably accomplish

this very considerable amount of work by means of the assistance of a numerous body of collaborators. Sub-committees of four or six would be formed from these collaborators, each sub-committee directed by one member of the main committee. Each sub-committee would be assigned a classification to prepare or test. The results of the work of the collaborators would be passed upon by the main committee, and if approved transmitted to the editors of the D. C.

These are few words and simple sentences, but the speaker has not worked with classification continuously for a decade without being able to realize that the tasks laid out are great.

Many, many have been the criticisms made of the D. C. There will be little room for them longer. If the critics are earnest,—and these are the only ones deserving of attention—here is their opportunity to be heard, their opportunity to aid their profession by getting out and working to eliminate the imperfections of the classification.

Whether the work of this committee is to be successful or not, depends upon whether the classifiers and catalogers will work to make it so. It is work in harmony with the key-note of this convention—*Democracy*. It is co-operation, all working as one for the good of all.

All are invited to aid. Grant us your active support.

SECOND SESSION

The second meeting of the Catalog Section was held Friday afternoon, June 30. The chairman introduced Mr. Martel who had consented to take up the "Report of progress on the Manual for alphabetization," by Mr. C. H. Hastings of the Library of Congress when it was learned that the latter could not be present. Mr. Hastings has written the secretary of the Section asking that the paper be omitted from the Proceedings as it is in a provisional state. It is hoped that the Manual will be in print within a year. The discussion by Miss Mary E. Baker and others was detailed and

valuable and has been sent back with the paper to Mr. Hastings. In Miss Mann's absence Miss Sutliff gave the report of the committee appointed to confer with Mr. Hastings.

The following memorandum from Mr. T. Franklin Currier, of Harvard College Library, was read by title only and ordered printed in the proceedings:

**MEMORANDUM: METHOD OF RECORD-
ING VOLUMES OF CHINESE AND
JAPANESE BOOKS**

In connection with the work of our Oriental collections, I have made inquiry of several American libraries as to their method of counting Chinese and Japanese books. I have received replies which are summarized as follows:

COLUMBIA. "We bind our Chinese and Japanese fascicules into convenient volumes and then count the volumes in giving the total number of volumes in the Library. Professor Hirth, head of the Chinese Department, attends to collecting the volumes and arranging them for binding. If for any reason he decides not to bind, we count as one volume the fascicules which are collected in one cover."

Professor Hirth of Columbia in a later letter says: "I quite agree with your conclusion regarding the fascicule as the unchangeable unit in describing a Chinese library. In fact I have acted on this principle myself in counting the contents of my own collection of Chinese books as about 7,000 fascicules, or *pōn*. If I separated the bound-up volumes from the loose fascicules at our university library, it was done in view of these books being handled by men and women not knowing Chinese, to whom a volume, though it may contain a number of fascicules, is just one volume. However, I would suggest that the number of fascicules bound together in each volume be stated on the first page and in the catalog. In some cases it will be hard to ascertain the exact number of fascicules that are bound together, and then we would have to resort to a guess. There is no absolute reliance in the counting of fascicules any-

how, since I have often come across the same work being issued in different numbers of fascicules at the discretion of the binder."

JOHN CRERAR. "We give 14,000 volumes, the total number of thin fascicules, as the number of our Orientalia."

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS. "Our count of Chinese and Japanese works by fascicules was assumed to be the conventional one and thus adopted. We still hold to it, notwithstanding that the cover, into which we put such works, group five or six of the fascicules as a new unit. We might, of course, take this unit as the basis; and may do so, if we see reason to think that by doing so, we should promote uniformity in practice."

NEWBERRY. "Hence we speak of '1,217 works in 21,654 Chinese volumes,' in (1911 Report, p. 7) meaning 1,217 titles in 21,654 brochures; we describe the Tripitaka as numbering '7,920 volumes, i. e. Chinese volumes or brochures, in 729 richly bound cloth cases (t'ao).'"

"We discussed the matter in 1911 with Dr. Laufer, and followed his advice in calling each independently stitched part in our Tibetan collection a 'volume.' He also gave us the term 't'ao' for Chinese covers."

YALE. "The 'volumes' in our Chinese collection refers to rebound volumes, not to the original thin fascicules, but in case of unbound volumes we refer to the thin volumes."

To summarize: John Crerar, Library of Congress and Newberry count the thin fascicules as volumes, though the Library of Congress would consider a change to promote uniformity. Mr. M. Mohri, assistant librarian of the Waseda University, Tokyo, now in this country, states that this is the practice in his library. Columbia takes as the unit the volumes or bundles formed of several fascicules, though Professor Hirth seems to favor the count by fascicules. Yale takes as a unit the bound volume containing several fascicules but when the fascicules are not bound together count each one a volume.

Conclusion: The unchangeable unit is the fascicule. Three of the libraries, or four counting Harvard, have adopted this unit and it seems to agree with Oriental custom. Harvard recommends, therefore, that this method be adopted and that where further specification is desirable the count be given as so many works in so many fascicules.

The last paper of the session was by Mr. Aksel G. S. Josephson, of the John

Crerar Library on "The cataloging test; results and outlooks."

(See p. 242)

The nominating committee, through the chairman, Mr. Voge, proposed the following for officers for the ensuing year: Chairman, Edna Goss, head cataloger University of Minnesota Library; secretary, Bessie Goldberg, head cataloger Chicago Public Library. This ticket was elected and the meeting adjourned.

CHARLOTTE H. FOYE,
Secretary.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARIANS' SECTION

FIRST SESSION

The first session of the Children's Librarians Section was held in the Auditorium on Wednesday evening, June 28, the chairman, Miss Gertrude E. Andrus, Seattle Public Library, presiding. The subject of the meeting was "CRITICAL COMMENTS ON LIBRARY WORK WITH CHILDREN."

Dr. Arthur E. Bostwick, St. Louis Public Library, read the first paper.

(See p. 209)

Mr. Henry E. Legler, Chicago Public Library, read the second paper.

(See p. 205)

Mr. R. R. Bowker, of "Library journal," was then called upon to contribute to the subject and spoke as follows:

Mr. BOWKER: Madam Chairman and fellow grown-ups—indeed, until Dr. Bostwick succeeds with his suffrage campaign in relation to children's librarians, I should say "lady grown-ups": If I do not treat you with brevity and levity I shall try not to tire you with too much longevity. Happily I am pretty sure to forget the larger part of what I should like to say; happily especially because the Fairy Godmother is to follow me, and we hope that all this talk will be followed by a real discussion of any points that are brought before you, if you young ladies can, like Ulysses, stop

your ears with arguments against the siren strains that tempt you to the dancing floor.

Most of us were once a child—not the plural—because this is individual work, though some few were born old. We think of ourselves as children of a larger growth, and I suppose there is a general notion in the community that anybody who has been a child and is of the feminine persuasion is fitted to be a children's librarian; but the children's librarian is one, I will not say born, not made, but properly selected by the library school and the librarian, and stands to the child even in a more important relation in some respects than *in loco parentis*.

We hear a great deal of abuse of parents in these times; and indeed, parents are not apt to know their children over well. I remember crossing in a steamer once and forming an intimacy with a young lady not up to flirtation age, and after a while her father, passing by, said, "I perceive you have formed a closer intimacy with my daughter than I have ever had the honor of enjoying." One of the reasons why the parent has difficulty in knowing the children is that the children are with the parent all the time. It is the every-day relationship which perhaps has a bit of the commonplace in it, whereas the child